

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-56 are active in this application.

Claims 7-23 and 49-56 are drawn to the elected subject matter. With respect to non-elected Claims 24-48, Applicants request that upon finding that the elected claims are allowable, the corresponding non-elected process claims be rejoined (MPEP § 821.04).

Support for the amendments to Claims 7-9 is found in Claims 1 and 3. Support for Claims 53, 54, 55 and 56 is found in Claims 2, 4, 5, and 6 respectively. No new matter is added by these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 7-9 and 12-14 are drawn to elected subject matter. As amended herein, Claims 7, 8, and 9 (the independent claims) have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. In view of these amendments, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 10-11, 15-17, and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Boire, the rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 10-11, 15-23, and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Yadav, the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Boire, the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yadav, the rejection of Claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Boire, and the rejection of Claims 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Boire further in view of Takaoka, and the rejection of Claims 51-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yadav further in view of Takaoka withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is addressed by amendment.

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Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Finally, Applicants request allowance of this application.

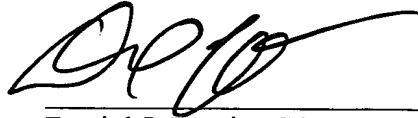
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)



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Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 45,518